

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 641

By Goins

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Taiwan for its relations with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States of America are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, foreign investment in Tennessee is important for job creation and growth within this State; Taiwanese companies such as Quanta Computers, Stamtec, Seyi America, and KHS America have made substantial investments in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than twenty agreements in the past decade. U.S. businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights and then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; the MOU of Reciprocal Driver's License also benefits bilateral relations between Taiwan and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Tennessee and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community, with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Taiwan on its democratization efforts and its meaningful participation in many international organizations and extend our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to Mr. Vincent Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.